school on wheels

school on wheels
2021
ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement

Since 1993, the mission of School on Wheels has never wavered: to enhance educational opportunities for homeless and foster children through academic assessment, individualized tutoring, and advocacy to close the gaps in their learning and provide them with the highest level of education possible. Our program serves as a consistent support system for our students during a time of great stress and fear.

A message from Executive Director Charles Evans

"In a year of unprecedented challenges, the need for technology and WiFi couldn't be more clear for our students."

— Charles Evans

From Board President Joshua Fein

Dear Friends of School on Wheels,

This past year we continued to realize our goals while facing the challenges of COVID-19 and its impact on our families. Our volunteers, our staff and our partners have demonstrated tireless effort in providing for our students and families. We have adapted our programs and perfected our online tutoring and content to provide an in-person tutoring again as schools and shelters opened up. Engagement with students increased as a result of new MOUs with major school districts, enabling us to accommodate the many of those who were isolated during the pandemic.

Thank you to our committed tutors and staff that prioritize our student's needs, and to all of our wonderful donors and partners, for their continued phenomenal support of our students and our mission.

Joshua Fein
BOARD PRESIDENT

Executive Board

Our board members are dedicated professionals, advocates, and philanthropists who support and advance our mission by being trusted stewards of our financial and business management and by raising one-half million dollars each year. Thank you for dedicating your time, talents, and resources to investing in the future of the enhanced children we serve.

Christine Chambers Goodman
Professor, Pepperdine University School of Law

Steven Dahlberg
President, The Kroot Company, Inc.

Joshua Fein
President, Chief Financial Officer,
Property Management Inspectors, Inc.

Jackson Gangnes
Senior Vice President, Disney Studios

Benny Kim Kim
Senior Vice President and General Counsel,
University of Southern California

Laurie Lesh
Educational Consultant

Clifford Neiman
Secretary, Principal, The Neiman Group Architects

Catherine Meek
Executive Advisor

Cecil L. "Chip" Murray
Professor of Religion, Tyrus Chair in Christian Ethics,
University of Southern California

Ellen Fadrios
Co-Founder, Joyful Giving

Jaime Paul
Entrepreneur, founder, lawyer, and activist for women and children's rights

Jessica Phillips
Director, Chief Accounting Officer, Ares Management

Jonathan Ortiz
Project Program Officer,
Grants & Programs, LA84 Foundation

Angela M. Sanchez
Program Analyst for College Success,
ECMC Foundation

Lynn Stone
Journalist

Janet A. Weiniger
Development Consultant

Melissa Zakarian
Managing Partner, Principal Communications Group

Sierra & Catherine's story

Sierra was 6 years old when I first met her. She was a tiny, wee girl with big eyes and glasses. She lived with her mom in a transitional shelter. When I first arrived to tutor, I was nervous and I hoped I would hide under the desk in the tutoring room. I sat with Sierra as she read her weekly, reading out loud and listening to her silence. One day I asked her, and she there she was ..... sitting at the desk waiting for me to arrive. Sierra and I bonded over Harry Potter, in time on, we bonded every week for about two years.

Sierra was extremely bright and curious about the world and loved to go on field trips to pumpkin patches, zoos, and water parks. Her life, however, was full of instability and she was constantly disorientated her in the shelter and she went into the foster system. I kept tutoring her for another year and then lost touch when the foster family moved out of the county.

I never forget her. She held a special place in my heart and I relief for years to find her. I posted her name on Facebook and I waited for her birthday wishing her (and hoping for) warmth, safety and love. Then, one day, about 12 years later, there was a friend request from Sierra! What joy.

Fast forward to May 2022 when I attended Sierra's wedding, a beautiful, joyous occasion, set in a woodland preserve. She is still a tiny wee lass with big eyes and glasses. Her life is full of love and she is surrounded by love and her new family. Success comes in many forms for kids like Sierra and Sierra is a wonderful success story. My heart is full.

— Catherine Meek, Executive Advisor

are look my said two

New ways to help our students in 2021

Over the past 24 months, we pivoted along with the world to ensure our students and families were able to adapt and thrive as programs to support students despite the challenges. Our ancillary support programs included food, clothing, hygiene, childcare, laptop and hotspot loans, school supplies.

We adapted our practices for the pandemic and continue to do so to focus on new and important ways to help our students, such as supporting their social-emotional needs.

bringing their parents into the process to foster a love of learning, providing enrichment opportunities, and enhancing their proficiency with digital tools and strategies.

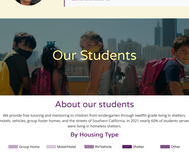
We are always, School on Wheels staff and volunteers are ready to adapt to the ever-changing connections were impossible. For our students, they need our support and our love. We are ready to provide the support and love they need to navigate environments of reinforcement, positive modeling, and constructive feedback.

This copy is not to be photocopied

A Year of Impact

Our tutoring program forms the center of our work: wonderful volunteers from all backgrounds and professions commit to devoting at least an hour every week to mentoring a child experiencing homelessness. This level of focused educational support has amazing transformative potential and our extensive ancillary programs increase its impact. In 2021 over 90% of tutoring was virtual, with in-person tutoring sessions taking place as our online tutoring platform, Big Blue Button.

About Our Work



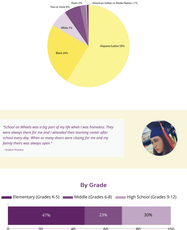
1,768
STUDENTS TUTORED

1,293
VOLUNTEER TUTORS

6
COUNTIES SERVED

1,712
FAMILIES

Resources Supplied to Students



3,867
BACKPACKS

2,500
ART & SCIENCE KITS

1,000+
LAPTOPS, TABLETS, & HOTSPOTS

1,973
BOOKS

846
$100 GROCERY GIFT CARDS

Volunteers

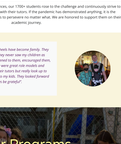
"The most meaningful relationship I've ever made only life with my student Sarge."

— Tutor Kathleen, School on Wheels Volunteer

About our volunteers | Presidential Service Awardees | 50+ Hours Tutors

Our program would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of the thousands of volunteers who show up every week to provide tutoring, mentoring and educational assistance to the most vulnerable students in our community.

Volunteering can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life.



Tutor Judith Gan

"Working with Emily, I have realized that whatever has happened to her in her young life, she has never had a safe place to just be young. She is a resilient, sweet and kind thought (for me with patience and it genuine ability to help her."

— Laura Ka Mantilla, Volunteer Tutor

Our Students

About our students

We provide free tutoring and mentoring to children from kindergarten through twelfth grade living in shelters, motels, vehicles, group foster homes, and transitional housing facilities. In 2021 nearly 50% of students served were living in homeless shelters.

By Housing Type

By Race

"School on Wheels was a big part of my life when I was homeless. They were always there for me and I attended their learning center after school every day. When so many doors were closing for me and my family there was always open."

— Student Photo

By Grade

The children we serve are among the most vulnerable and neglected individuals in our nation. Only 64% of students experiencing homelessness graduate from high school, and only 6% earn a diploma are 4.5 times more likely to experience homelessness as an adult.

As a result of the pandemic, the average student lost a cumulative five months of learning. But it is estimated that our students lost a whopping seven months. The pandemic exacerbated existing systemic inequalities and deepened the digital divide.

"Children in every demographic group have been affected, but Black and Hispanic children, as well as those from low-income families, those with disabilities and those who are learning English have fallen the farthest behind."

— U.S. Government Accountability Office

Despite these unprecedented circumstances, our 1700+ students rose to the challenge and continuously strive to succeed, meeting weekly one-on-one with their tutors. If the pandemic has demonstrated anything, it is the resiliency of our incredible young learners to persevere no matter what. We are honored to support them on their academic journey.

"The tutors we met through School on Wheels have become family. They meet alone and beyond in my family. They never can my children or just a student they had to tutor. They listened to them, encouraged them, and gave them undivided attention. They were great role models and great friends. My kids not only respect their tutors but really look up to them. The relationship means so much to my kids. They looked forward to seeing their tutor. For that, I will always be grateful."

— Parent Photo

Our Programs

Core Programs

In 2021, K-8 students **improved their literacy skills by 27%**; in the past six months, 9th through eighth grade students **increased math skills by an average of 1 full grade level**; and all tutoring surveys showed a **80% increase in confidence** in math through 12th graders.

ABC Literacy Program (Grades K-4)

Based on assessment scores, we provide a selection of materials that are appropriately challenging for each student. Volunteer tutors work for students who are still learning to read and for those who are now reading to learn.

Academic Program (Grades 5-8)

Our individually-tailored Academic Program focuses on math and English Language Arts. The program consists of a variety of assessments, lessons, and tutoring, guided lessons and literacy.

BUS Program (Grades 9-12)

Our Believe Understand Succeed Program is designed to:

- Help our high school students graduate
- Provide our students with exposure to the most critical 21st Century skills
- Connect our students with organizations that provide post-high school opportunities in continuing education and career developments.

Enrichment Programs

Only 12% of children ages 3 to 18 experiencing homelessness have access to a laptop or computer device at their primary residence.

Digital Learning Initiative

Our Digital Learning Initiative empowers our students to be able to participate in online learning and ensure they have the tools and support for ultimate goal is to bridge the digital divide and provide equitable access to opportunities in the ever-changing technology and cross-curricular learning, digital literacy, Digital Learning Centers, and online tutoring.

Social and Emotional Learning

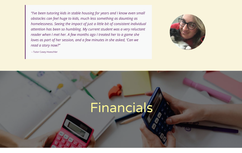
Our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Program provides tutors with the tools to help students combat stress and anxiety, build self-esteem and gauge their emotions, and learn responding to an emotional situation. The SEL curriculum is also designed to help students process what they are feeling in a safe space.

Scholarships

Students are encouraged to apply for our scholarship programs which can be used for college, trade schools, vocational training programs, educational summer programs, apprenticeships or enrichment programs. Scholarships are available for current and former students up to the age of 23. **In 2021 we awarded 34 of these scholarships.**

Union Rescue Mission Summer Tutoring Program

Even though the majority of tutoring in 2021 was online, we continued to offer in-person tutoring to some of our most vulnerable students, including children living in shelters in Skid Row.



"I've been tutoring kids in stable housing for years and I know even small interruptions in their lives can have a huge impact on their learning and homelessness, facing the impact of a lost 6th grade year without adequate attention has been so heartbreaking. My current student went a very reluctant reader when I met her. A few months ago I treated her to a game she loves as part of her session, and a few minutes in the school. Can we read a story now?"

– Tutor Isaac Kaushke

Financials

For 29 years, School on Wheels has maintained strong financial stability ensuring our growth supports our students in the best possible way. Your generous support helps us provide programs and services throughout six counties in Southern California, investing in the educational lives of our students.

Key highlights for 2021:

- Key partnerships with six cities to our an incredible $3,091,023 in these challenging times.
- We spent 87 cents of every dollar donated for programs and services that help kids experiencing homelessness with their education.
- Our material donors continued to allow us to provide laptops/devices, hot spots, backpacks, school supplies, gift cards and science kits to over 5,000 students.
- Note that Total Income includes loan forgiveness on the SBA Payroll Protection Program.

Revenue & Support

Foundations	$1,642,510	53%
Individuals	$874,506	28%
Corporations/Corporate Foundations	$207,000	5%
Organizations	$94,005	3%
Special Events	$77,000	2%
Donated Materials	$330,415	10%
Unrealized Gain/Loss on Investments	(81,118)	-3%
Interest/Net Other Income	42,155	1%
Total	**$3,187,073**	
SBA Payroll Protection Loan Forgiveness	$270,715	
Total Revenues, Support, and Other Income	**$3,371,380**	

Expenses

Program Services	$3,071,213	92%
Fundraising	$133,028	4%
Support Services	$132,705	9%
Total	**$3,336,946**	

Donors

In 2021, you and 1,712 supporters like you rose to the challenge of providing financial assistance and funding in the form of grants, cash and material donations. You made it possible for nearly 2,000 students to receive one-on-one tutoring and school supplies, and you ensured they were not forgotten.

The pandemic forced School on Wheels to pivot its strategies to new realities, far beyond our pivot to online work. Poverty and racism disproportionately burden our students who are already academically behind and experiencing massive trauma. Our staff and volunteers provide connection at a time when other connections are impossible.

We're proud of our partnerships – and our partners – who continue to help so many persevere at this unprecedented time.

GOOD GRANTS CALIFORNIA | LAMPLIGHT

BLT Enterprises helped us raise over $100,000.00 by matching all donations on Giving Tuesday.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, USC Good Neighbors has funded 107 grants to local nonprofits and community organizations.

Discover A Star has supported School on Wheels for many years, and we are proud to call them our friends. In 2021 they also hosted a holiday toy drive for our students.

Gifts of $250,000+

The Theodore J. Forstmann Charitable Trust

Gifts of $100,000+

Arnerishing Foundation
The Eisner Foundation Inc.
Jewish Federation Now
Windsong Trust

Gifts of $50,000+

Amazon.com Services LLC
BLT Enterprises
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
Fidelity Charitable
The Sharon D. Lund Foundation
USC Good Neighbors Campaign

Gifts of $40,000+

The Kenneth T. & Eileen L. Norris Foundation
Steinmetz Foundation

Gifts of $30,000+

California Community Foundation
California Foundation for Stronger Communities
Charities Aid Foundation America
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
Fidelity Charitable
The Sharon D. Lund Foundation
USC Good Neighbors Campaign

Gifts of $20,000+

Anonymous
AT&T Services, Inc.
Bluebird Legacy, Inc
Capital Group Cares Phillips
Cary/Johnson Foundation
David Peters
The Genevieve & Carlo Calcamilla Fund
Geisner Johnson Family Foundation
The John W. Carson Foundation
Joseph Drown Foundation
Josh Fenn and Marcjio Lazaro
Kenneth Rosenberg Family Fund
Lynn Kaufman
Margaret M. Bloomfield Family Foundation
The Mark Hughes Foundation
The Rose Hills Foundation
Speechcraft Family Foundation
Sunset Children's Foundation
The Tom Bradley Legacy Foundation
Voices Program
Universal Studios Hollywood's Discover A Star Foundation
Wasserman Foundation

Gifts of $10,000+

Antoine and Dave Carpenter
Bowen H. & Janice Arthur McCoy Charitable Foundation
Cathy Hoffman Foundation
CBE Television Foundation
Chris Silbermann and Julia Franz
David Kordansky Gallery
Dora Y. Lund Fund for People Helping Children
The Kenyon Fleischmann Family Fund
Geisner Johnson Family Foundation
Limeless
The Loeber Foundation
The Louis & Harold Price Foundation
Lynn Kaufman and Paul Kaufman
Devan and Cara Marshall
Michal and Ron Salem
Nathan Fielder
Nancy Hoffman and Renee Lingan
Steven and Stephanie Gahlberg
The Play Equity Fund
Property Management Associates, Inc.
Ruby's Healthy Partners LP
Scott Family Foundation, Inc.
Seattle Genoese Foundation
The Steven and Marjorie Hausman Family Foundation
William C. Bannerman Foundation

Gifts of $5,000+

Anonymous
Alan and Mark Kosson
Andrew and Colleen Goldberg
Being Gos Kim and Bonnie Wongtaracup
The Capital Group Companies
Catherine Hoffman
Catherine Meek and Al Carle
The Chernin Group
City National Bank
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Dan Gilbert
David Miner
Earl Nielson
Edison International
Empyrean Capital Partners
Ernest & Julio Gallo Foundation
Girl & the Goat
The Herman Foundation
Intipac Pty.
James and Cheryl Farkas
Jeffrey Katzenberg
Jenna and Weba Belcher
Joann and Stan Benson
Katherine Garay
Kate McGrath & Abrams Family Foundation
The Kim and Harold Lewis Family Foundation
Kristine Belson
Larissa Chapin
Lee Kindness Charities
Melissa Estavenue and Benjamin Goldfarb
Menaka Evans
Michelle Paradise
Mitchell Gold Family
The Norman Group Architects
Oliver Edmonds
Pauly Krebs
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Tracy Salisbury
University Church of Christ
USC Foundation

Gifts of $3,000+

Bowen Tax Law
Cheryl McLellan
Chris Chambers Goodman and Marc Goodman
Deacon Charitable Foundation
Dorothy Kosinski
Georges and Germaine Kuzeski Charity Foundation
Kristen King
Lisa Marie and Aryan Desai
Lynn and Robert Stone
Malkoff Family Foundation
Mastrogiani and Company
Mimi Gazzale
Nancy Hoffman
Nussbacher Family Fund
Paul Stanford Bernhardt Foundation
Richard Bernard and Kim Sandhes
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club, Inc.
Sarah McMullan
Skip Paul
Steve Schoenherr
The Walt Disney Company Foundation

Gifts of $2,000+

A.C. Israel Foundation, Inc.
Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc.
Apple Inc.
Brigid O'Connor
Brock Lofving
Bruce & Kathleen Lynch
Charlie and Ellen Steinmetz
Christopher Chengarol
Cynthia Hoffman
Daniel Bath
Dolgo Naveen
Dwight Lu
DHJ Foundation
Google Inc.
Jane Fiorel and Omar Al-Mihlani
Jennifer Pierjoupan
Jerold and Rosemary Shinkane
Joy Meshkat
Kathy Ann Lynn Gloon
Judy Turner
Lynn Middleton
Mary Ann Sieber and JC Calcano
Max Ho
Michael and Trisha Huxson
Michael Lee
Mitch Kaplan
Nathan Parkhill
Pat Warner
Pirindo, Arsenis, Guess, Hillyard, Barnes & Reinholtz LLP
Rebecca Mall
Robert Mattes
Robert Nelson
Richard and Karina Schrabel
Sanford Garner
Sherman Family Foundation
Stephanie Sanford
Titan Investments, LLC
Torrie Aust
Yvonne Derse

Gifts of $1,000+

Anonymous
Alan Fiorel
The Adam Fund Foundation
Aerospace Federal Credit Union
Alex Ho
Alex Kanel
Amazon Smile Foundation
Arshaz Mehta
Arianne Neuhardt
Barbara Kosson
Barbara Kreisler
Bergeron Wong
Carlos Chan
Carol Hansell
Carol & Carolyn Moore
Chris D'Ambrosio
Christina Derse
Christine Lee
Compass Education Group, LLC
Concord
Curt and Heather Jensen
David Auker
David Kosinski
Dayl Fernandez
Eileen and Mike McAuliffe
Ellen and Donald Rudo
Evan Pitchford
Fred Ho Chen
Green Dragon Campaigns, Inc.
Hari Sakthivel
Hannah Bounds
Hilton Worldwide, Inc.
James Lennon
Jeffrey Bryant
Jennifer Wenling Hao
Jin Gahlberg
John and Carolyn Cree Marshall
John Buchanan
Jordan Bertuzzi
Joseph Gonzalez
Kevin Scott
The Kusuma Family
Laura Rubine
Leslie Johnson
Lisa Marie Gonzalez
Mary Auth
Matthew Garnes
Michael Kosson and JC Calcano
Mike Ho
Michael and Trisha Huxson
Michael Lee
Mitch Kaplan
Nathan Parkhill
Nicolas Pedreti
Pat Warner
Pierre Ngo
Qais Ferns
Rebecca Kosson
Renee Lisson
Renee Marcuso
Richard and Shari Foss
Ronald Fueches
Ryan Kosson
Sangay Sherma
Sarah Chu
Scott Hinton
Sewad and Darren Chilton
Sue Kosson
Susanne Lerner
Synopsys Inc. & The Synopsys Foundation
Taal Sabah and Zerin Tapon
Tammy Phan
Terry and Karen Kosson
TIAA financial services company
Tiffany Kosson
Tyler Vernon
UCLA Model United Nations
Union Methodist Church of Westlake Village
Vicki Kosson
WR Trust

Material Donations

Since 1993 every student we tutor receives a brand new backpack filled with school supplies. But over the last 24 months, we saw the need for other additional tools including technology, books, and activity kits, to name just a few. As always, you our supporters and friends rose to the challenge, and we were privileged to have the support of some amazing corporations and organizations in 2021, including:

California Science Center donated **550 Camp in a Backpack kits** filled with tools, books and experiments.

Team Long Run donated **1,000 Activity Discovery Recess Kits.**

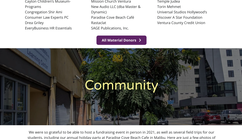
Paradise Cove Land and the team at Paradise Beach Cafe not only donated a beach day in December they also provided toys and goodies for our students.

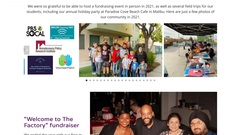
Major Material Donors

Active Discovery
Amazon Smile
Analog Devices
Beverly Segel
The Book Truck
The Broad Museum
Bruce Springsteen Director
Captain Children's Museum
Programs
Carolina Herrera Arts
Consumer Law Experts PC
Drew Grilley
Everybodymen.THR Essentials
Farah's Law Firm, APC
Fender Musical Instruments
FreeNotes/Disney
Gallant International Inc.
IBUYSPEED
Kate Spade
Kaiser Permanente
Mission Church Ventura
New Audio LLC (dba Master & Dynamic)
Paradise Cove Beach Café
Rastaclat
SAGE Publications, Inc.
Sam Kuhn
Sandra Adams
Skylight Institute
Sylvi Weaver Ltd.
Sue Lee
Team Long Run
Temple Judea
Temple Judea
Tarin Mehmet
Universal Studios Hollywood's Discover A Star Foundation
Ventura County Credit Union

Community

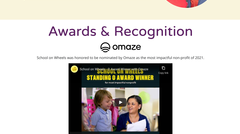
We were so grateful to be able to host a fundraising event in person in 2021, as well as several field trips for our students, including our annual holiday party at Paradise Cove Beach Cafe in Malibu. Here are just a few photos of our community in 2021.





"Welcome to The Factory" fundraiser

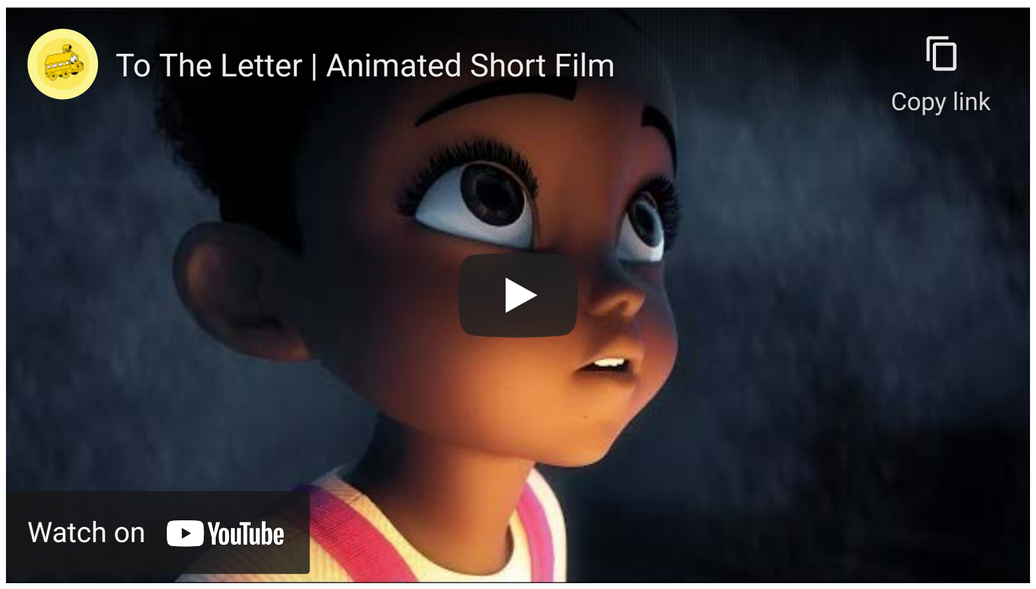
We ended the year with our first in-person event since the pandemic began. Our Board of Directors know how to put the Fun into fundraising!



Awards & Recognition

School on Wheels was honored to be nominated by Omaze as the most impactful non-profit of 2021.

School on Wheels partnered with a CBS team to produce TO THE LETTER, an animated short film that tells the story of a young unhoused student as she attempts to learn how to read. It won first place in the CBS Leadership Pipeline Challenge.



We are proud to be members of:

Skid Row Learning Center
600 East 7th Street, Ste 109
Los Angeles, CA 90021

Ventura Resource Center
P.O. Box 23371
Ventura, CA 93002

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(805) 641-1686
contact@schoolonwheels. org

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